Dancing to Learn – Learning to Dance

STAO2010 Conference

Science Teachers' Association of Ontario



Inclusive Science:



Difference, Diversity and Equity

11-13 November 2010; Toronto, Ontario

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"We dance in order to expand the potential for something to happen."

Joseph Rael (2009) in "Sound: Native Teachings + Visionary Art" (p. 55), Council Oak Books, San Francisco <u>ABSTRACT</u>: "Integrative Science" brings together indigenous and western scientific knowledges and ways of knowing for the purposes of science education, research, application, and outreach to Aboriginal youth and community. This talk will share understanding of the issues, challenges, and controversies for science educators.



OUTLINE and ENDING

INTEGRATIVE SCIENCE: Difference ↔ Equity ↔ Diversity



stories of our interactions with and within nature





Canada Research Chairs

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Chaires de recherche du Canada

> Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada Canada

Thank you / Wela'lioq



for 15+ years we have been on a Co-Learning Journey (wherein we have been our own experimental rats)





Mi'kmaw Elders, Students, Research Team, Mother Earth









Native Council of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Language Program Artist: Michael J. Martin

Island of Cape Breton - Unama'ki

Cape Breton University

MI'KMA'KI

Halifax 👝







research prior to Integrative Science

Edited by Carter T. Atkinson, Nancy J. Thomas & D. Bruce Hunter

Birds

Vild

Parasitic Diseases of

1) Blackwell Publishing







research in Integrative Science

especially with Mi'kmaw Elders Murdena and Albert Marshall

Nova Scotia



The central dilemma of science education today is the teaching of science from only one cultural perspective, and in an incomplete and non-connected manner.

Gregory Cajete, PhD

Native American Scientist & Educator, Univ. of New Mexico





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Western



bringing together Indigenous and Western scientific knowledges and ways of knowing

starting in the mid 1990's







Artist: Basma Kavanagh

our stories

our sciences

Indigenous our worldviews Western

"bringing our knowledges together"

Artist: Basma Kavanagh

words of Elder Albert Marshall, Mi'kmaw Nation

"The foundational basis for any relationship is an exchange of stories."

Indigenous

"bringing our stories together"

Western

Artist: Basma Kavanagh

Integrative Science STA02010: INCLUSIVE SCIENCE

"bringing our stories together"

Western

Artist: Basma Kavanagh

Indigenous

Integrative Science STA02010: DIFFERENCE

"bringing our stories together"

Western

Artist: Basma Kavanagh

Indigenous



Lifelong Learning Models

Integrative Science STA02010: DIFFERENCE



towards resonance of understanding within environment

towards construction of understanding of environment

Western

Integrative Science STA02010: DIFFERENCE

(words of Elder Albert Marshall) "If only we would spend a few moments to determine if there are possibilities for change ... to hear the **STORIES** from cultures other than our own."





"Let us find ways to share our stories."

Indigenous Storywork types of stories:

legends ... things come to be
peoples' experiences

Jo-ann Archibald (2008), Indigenous Storywork, UBC Press

Jo-ann Archibald | Q'um Q'um Xilem

Indigenous



"Let us find ways to share our stories."



"Let us find ways to share our stories."

Indigenous

LEARN ... to see from one eye with the best in our Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the best in the Western (or mainstream) ways of knowing ... and learn to use these eyes together, for the benefit of all. (words of Elder Albert Marshall)

We need to consider some philosophical aspects about our stories / sciences / knowledges / worldviews.

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In general, we (scientists) are not very good at this ... it has not been part of our formal educational experience.

Dancing to Learn – Learning to Dance CHALLENGES

We need to consider some philosophical aspects about our stories / sciences / knowledges / worldviews.

Ermine (2007): Fundamental question of cultural encounters is "How can we reconcile worldviews?" He suggests the implementation of <u>ethical space</u> in which we make "a venue to step out of our allegiances, to detach from the cages of our mental worlds and assume a position where human-to-human dialogue can occur."

Dancing to Learn – Learning to Dance CHALLENGES

Ermine, W. 2007. The ethical space of engagement. Indigenous Law Journal 6(1): 193-203.

We need to consider some philosophical aspects about our stories / sciences / knowledges / worldviews.

... four "big pattern" considerations ...

Ermine et al. (2004) say implementation of <u>ethical</u> <u>space</u> first requires an affirmation of its existence. Ethical space cannot exist without this affirmation.

Dancing to Learn – Learning to Dance CHALLENGES

Ermine, W., Sinclair, R., and Jeffrey, B. 2004.

The ethics of research involving Indigenous peoples. Report of the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre to the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics.



OUR OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

BIG QUESTION

What overall goals do we have for our ways of knowing?

Itearning to see with the strengths of each & together

OUR OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN WORDS

collective, living knowledge to enable nourishment of one's journey within expanding sense of "place, emergence and participation" for collective consciousness and interconnectiveness

dynamic, testable, published knowledge independent of personal experience that can enable prediction and control (and "progress")

towards resonance of understanding within environment معتدیکە توگە توگە توگە توگە towards construction of understanding of environment

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TWO-EYED SEEING Iearning to see with the <u>strengths</u> of each & together

OUR OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES



Shaping our stories ... by how we value and share the world.

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OUR WORLD

BIG QUESTION

What do we believe the world or cosmos to be? (ontology)

TWO-EYED SEEING Iearning to see with the <u>strengths</u> of each & together

OUR WORLD

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN WORDS

interconnective

beings ... interconnective and animate: *spirit + energy + matter* with

CONSTANT CHANGE within balance and wholeness

parts & wholes

objects ... comprised of parts and wholes characterized by systems and emergences: *energy + matter* with

EVOLUTION with systems and emergences


OUR WORLD

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN VISUALS









CONSTANT CHANGE within balance and wholeness

EVOLUTION with systems and emergences

Shaping our stories ... by how we value and share the world.

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OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS

BIG QUESTION

What do we value as "ways of coming to know" the cosmos? (epistemology)



TWO-EYED SEEING

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN WORDS

- respect
- relationship
- reverence
- reciprocity
- ritual (ceremony)
- repetition
- responsibility

- hypothesis

(making & testing)

- data collection
- data analysis
- model & theory construction

J. Archibald, 2001, Can. J. Native Ed. 25(1):1-5



OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN VISUALS



Shaping our stories ... by how we value and share the world.

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OUR LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES

BIG QUESTION

What can remind us of the complexity within our ways of knowing?

Itearning to see with the <u>strengths</u> of each & together

OUR LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN WORDS

weaving of patterns within
 nature's patterns via
creative relationships and
reciprocities among love,
land, and life (vigour)

that are constantly reinforced and nourished by Aboriginal languages

un-weaving of nature's patterns (especially via analytic logic and the use of instruments) to cognitively reconstruct them, especially using mathematical language (rigour) and computer models



OUR LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN WORDS





OUR LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES

BIG UNDERSTANDING ... IN VISUALS



The four "big pattern" understandings are required for Two-Eyed Seeing.

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STAO2010: EQUITY



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"We dance in order to expand the potential for something to happen."

Seph Rael (2009) in "Sound: Native Teachings + Visionary Art" (p. 55), Council Oak Books, San Francisco





patterns told as stories about our interactions with and within nature ...

Integrative Science

STAO2010: EQUITY

Science is dynamic pattern-based knowledge.

told as stories about our interactions with and within nature ...

Integrative Science

STAO2010: EQUITY

Integrative Science STA02010: DIVERSITY patterns

told as stories about our interactions with and within nature ...

human pattern smarts various ways to connect the dots diversity in our stories

- numbers
- language
- ♦ music
- body
- ♦ spatial
- \diamond other people
- ♦ self
- ◇ naturalist (naturalist)
- ◇ spiritual / existential *

Howard Gardner's "multiple intelligences"

(linguistic)

(spatial)

(musical)

(interpersonal)

(intrapersonal)

(body-kinesthetic)

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human pattern smarts various ways to connect the dots diversity in our stories



our science stories ... draw upon our "pattern smarts"



WHAT STORIES ... depends upon: SANCTIONED PERSPECTIVES & INTELLIGENCES

who we are; where we are; where we were; what we know, do and value



Muin and The Seven Bird Hunters

Bear and Bird images by Kristy Read and Sana Kavanagh



"Reflections"

artist Gerald Gloade Millbrook First Nation

THE UNIVERSE

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF

ASTRONOMY

"Reflections"

Patterns

in Stars

artist Gerald Gloade Millbrook First Nation

Patterns on Earth

GERALD GLOADE



image by Kristy Read

Tatapn == (North Star)

Muin and The Seven Bird Hunters: a Mi'kmaw Night Sky Story ... interconnectiveness of space-time-life-knowledge-spirit

images by Kristy Read



















meta pattern of the story over one full year





MU PESIPKA'SINUK THERE IS NO END



The story is <u>always happening</u>. It is told in the <u>present tense</u>.

images by Kristy Read

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Shaw et al. 2010 in Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences

Storie









Kluscap, wanting to take a bath, ordered Beaver to build a dam across the mouth of the bay to hold the ocean water so that there would be lots of water for his bath.

with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation





Beaver did as Kluscap asked.

But Whale was unhappy because now the water did not flow as before. "Why has the water

stopped?" Whale cried.

with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation





Kluscap hearing him and not wanting Whale to be upset told Beaver to break the dam and release the water. Beaver liked the dam he had made, so he was slow to begin taking it apart.

with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation
Native Council of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Language Program Artist: Michael J. Martin

MI'KMA'KI

Whale became impatient. He wanted the water as it was before. Using his great tail, he started breaking

the dam apart.

with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation



Native Council of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Language Program Artist: Michael J. Martin

The dam broke. And it caused water to flow back and forth with such force that it continues so until this day.

with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation

2010 ARTICLE in: Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 47(8): 1079–1091

Catastrophic tidal expansion in the Bay of Fundy, Canada

SCIENCES

SCIENCES DE LA TERRE

by: John Shaw, Carl L. Amos, David A. Greenberg, Charles T. O'Reilly, D. Russell Parrott, and Eric Patton

with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation



with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade, Millbrook First Nation

We argue that the catastrophic breakdown of the barrier is related in the legend, showing that **Aboriginal peoples** observed the rapid environmental changes and preserved an oral record for 3400 years.

last sentence in ABSTRACT for: Shaw et al. 2010

NRC Press Research Journals Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 47

Table 1: Radiocarbon dates



We argue that the catastrophic breakdown of the barrier is related in the legend, showing that **Aboriginal peoples** observed the rapid environmental changes and preserved an oral record for 3400 years.

last sentence in ABSTRACT for: Shaw et al. 2010







our science stories



with permission of Artist Gerald Gloade

towards resonance of understanding within environment

Sab marsh Dutters. Bonno clams Mussele. Toesa. Freshuster peat Ellevation (m Mya arenana 23 2000 3000 1000 47000 5000 8000 Radiocarbon years BP

Fig. 4. Palaeoindicator data from Minas Basin.

NRC Press Research Journals Shaw et al. 2010; CJES 47: 1086

towards construction of understanding of environment

our science stories

Dancing to Learn – Learning to Dance

our science stories



stories of our interactions with and within nature

Science







images from: Aboriginal organizations/artists, various sources



images from: Aboriginal organizations/artists, various sources



images from: Aboriginal organizations/artists, various sources











photo credit: NRC

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Wela'lioq / Thank you



with permission of Tuma Young, photographer, Eskasoni First Nation



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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Chaires de recherche du Canada

> Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada Canada

Thank you / Wela'lioq

